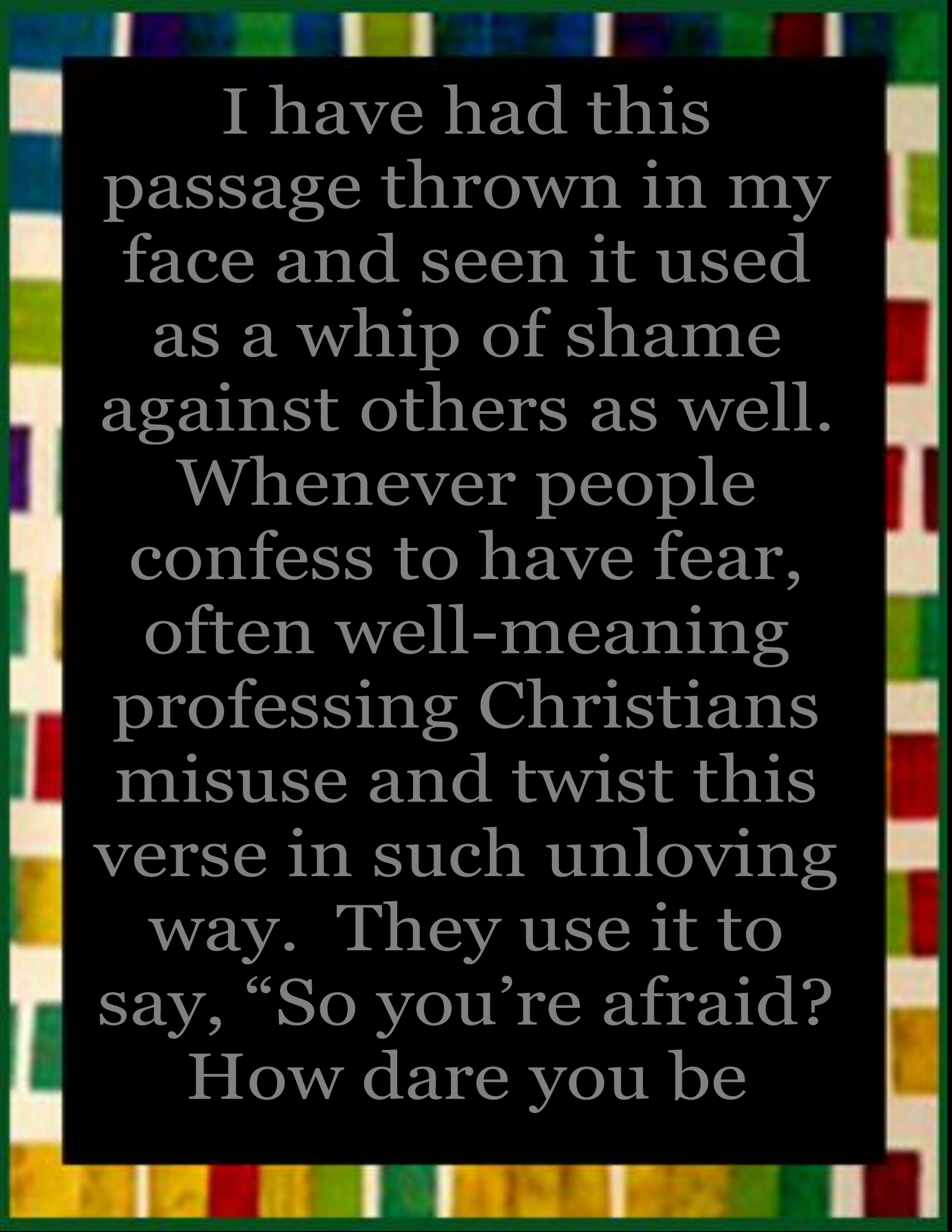


September
5

2 Timothy
1:7

“Afraid?”
WHAM!
“That’s
Not God!”
Huh?

**For God hath
not given us
the spirit of
fear; but of
power, and
of love, and
of a sound
mind.**



I have had this
passage thrown in my
face and seen it used
as a whip of shame
against others as well.

Whenever people
confess to have fear,
often well-meaning
professing Christians
misuse and twist this
verse in such unloving
way. They use it to
say, “So you’re afraid?
How dare you be

afraid!” Then they slam you with, “God has not given us the spirit of fear.” Some even go so far as to say your feelings of fear are, “not of God” and are instead, “of the devil.” They leave the hearer hurt and confused and still in fear about whatever the initial situation may have been.

Nonetheless, these words were never intended to cause emotional injury toward Believers when they experienced sadness or anxiety. It was never meant to say that if you have fears or worries, you are being influenced by evil spirits and are, therefore, bad or are, in some way, out of

God's will.

In context to the rest of the passage (2 Timothy 1:1-10), the verse was said as comfort, encouragement, and instruction. Paul was trying to convey to Timothy that the same “unfeigned faith” in God that was in his grandmother and

mother, was also in Timothy. Paul was saying to be unashamed of the testimony of the Lord. He was teaching to be a willing “partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God...” So, rather than being a scolding for having fears (as it is quite wrongly used by

some), the whole passage, when rightly divided, was an uplift and reminder of what was within Timothy and what the whole situation was actually about—regardless to how things appeared.

We can glean (from what Paul was saying to Timothy) that in suffering, sadness,

loss, and any emotional pain or disappointment, God's power and love overcomes our fears and grants us sound minds. Such sound minds are aided by "sound words" (verse 13). Sound minds comprehend the truth that God saved us and called us with a "holy calling" which is not

about our works,
but instead,
concerns God's
purpose.

All of the seeming
misery is, in reality,
the manifestation
(the viewable
evidence) of Christ
having connected us
to himself through
his work of
“abolishing death”

and bringing “life
and immortality”
through the gospel.

ONE *A* DAY

SCRIPTURE

1611KJV

